

Family Characteristics Scale (FCS) – Permission and Use

- Professional Qualifications of FCS Users
 - One of the following three types of qualifications is required to receive permission to use the FCS:
 - Faculty members engaged in appropriate, approved research following legal and ethical principles within their scope of expertise.
 - Clinical health care professionals holding a valid license to practice in a health-related field for which use of the FCS falls within the scope of practice.
 - Clinical educational professionals holding a valid license for which the FCS falls within the scope of practice.
 - Individuals who do not fall into one of the categories above may request special permission from the FCS author after providing an explanation and scope of use. These exceptions are expected to be rare.
 - Students may use the FCS only under the supervision of a qualified professional who has permission to use the FCS. The supervising professional must request use of the FCS and retains responsibility for following these guidelines.
- Permission to Use
 - For permission to use the FCS, please send an email to the scale author (William Kronenberger, Ph.D.) at wkronenb@iu.edu. The email must include the following elements:
 - Name, Degree, Location (country and state/province/city)
 - For Faculty Members: Current Academic Institution and Department, Academic Rank, and Field of Expertise (e.g., Psychology, Pediatrics, Speech-Language Pathology, etc.).
 - For Licensed Health Care or Clinical Educational Professionals: Licensed Profession (e.g., Speech-Language Pathologist, Physician, Clinical Psychologist, School Psychologist, etc.), and License Number and Jurisdiction (State, Country) or Certification Number and Organization.
 - The request for permission to use the FCS must include the exact sentence: “I agree to abide by the FCS Permission and Use document as posted on Dr. Kronenberger’s website.” By sending this information, you agree to abide by all conditions below.
 - After receiving permission to use from the scale author, William Kronenberger, Ph.D. (wkronenb@iu.edu), the requesting individual may use and reproduce the FCS for clinical and research purposes, with the following limitations:
 - The user may not alter the FCS without additional permission from the scale author.
 - The user may not post or distribute the scale in an electronic format without additional special permission from the scale author. This includes not copying, administering, or posting the FCS online for any purpose (including but not limited to clinical or research purposes). If you are interested in using the FCS in an online administration format, you may send a separate request to the scale author at wkronenb@iu.edu. Permission to use the FCS online, if granted, will be for a fixed number of participants for a specific purpose and a limited time.
 - Distribution of the FCS to any other individual or organization requires additional permission. In almost all cases, that other individual or organization will be required to directly request permission to use the FCS from the scale author.
 - Use of the FCS in a for-profit endeavor such as a clinical trial by a for-profit organization requires additional permission.
 - The user must be appropriately qualified for use of the scale (see below).
 - Any additional permissions should be sought by contacting the scale author at wkronenb@iu.edu.

- Please provide appropriate citations to FCS articles if the FCS is being used for research purposes.
- Translation of the FCS
 - Translation of the FCS into any language other than English may be performed only after receiving specific permission from the scale author to create a translation.
 - A copy of the final translated version of the FCS must be sent to the scale author at his email address. The FCS author retains permission to use or distribute the translated version.
 - Translated versions of the FCS may not be distributed to any other individual or organization without permission of the scale author.
 - The process of translation must follow the guidelines of the World Health Organization and the International Test Commission (ITC Guidelines for Translating and Adapting Tests).
 - Evaluation of the adequacy of the final translated version is the responsibility of the FCS user.
- Appropriate use of the FCS
 - Users of the FCS are expected to follow rules for test user qualifications and test use as described by organizations such as the American Psychological Association.
 - Clinical users of the FCS should follow standards for use of behavior checklists to enhance clinical work. These standards generally recommend that behavior checklists be used to augment clinical care and not to substitute for other methods of evaluation. In particular, it is generally accepted that behavior checklists should not substitute for interview and other methods of direct observation/evaluation as a part of the diagnostic process.
 - Users of the FCS should be familiar with scale research and psychometrics. Please consult our research for information about scale development and psychometrics.
- For any additional questions or information (including permission to use the FCS), please contact the scale author, William Kronenberger, Ph.D. (wkronenb@iu.edu).